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Our Ref: JHW/VE/T3981

26 June 2007

Dear Sirs

Our client: Poetic Products Limited

Your client: Roger Crane

"In God's Name" and "The Last Confession"

Further to our recent letters we enclose an initial comparison between Act 2 of TLC and IGN. This is a draft and subject to revision. We have not yet prepared a colour highlighted version of this document, but it is clear from perusing it that copying from IGN has occurred in Act 2 of TLC of similar kind and extent to that identified in respect of Act 1.

Yours faithfully


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1750029 V1



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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DRAFT

COMPARISON BETWEEN "THE LAST CONFESSION" ("LC")
ACT 2 AND "IN GOD'S NAME" ("IGN")

NOTE: This comparison follows the same approach as the draft comparison between LC Act 1 and IGN, save that the coloured highlighting has not yet been added.

LC Act Two.

VINCENZA: *Did you remember to take you pill last night.*

JOHN PAUL *Yes, Sister.*

VINCENZA: *The doctor says it will give you more energy.*

JOHNPAUL: *It will not make these papers disappear any faster.*

VINCENZA *Would you like another of coffee ?*

JOHNPAUL: *Thank you, the coffee is much better this morning.*

VINCENZA: *I bought a proper coffee-maker yesterday.*

JOHNPAUL *(Smiling) Perhaps the Vatican can change.....*

.....VINCENZA*(Looking at tray on desk)*

You ate all your sweets last night.

JOHNPAUL *(Guilty) Yes, Sister.*

IGN 168

Vincenza had worked for Luciani since his Vittorio Veneto days and she knew his ways, his habits. She had accompanied him to Venice and had been the Mother Superior of the Community of four nuns who looked after the Patriarch. In 1977 she suffered a heart attack and had been hospitalised. The doctors told her she must never work again, that she should sit and merely give instructions to the other nuns. She had ignored the advice and continued to supervise Sister Celestina's cooking and had fussed over the Patriarch, reminding him to take his medicine for his low blood pressure....

.....A lunch of minestrone or pasta, followed by whatever Vincenza had created for a second course, was served at 12.30 p.m.

IGN200

Totally unruffled by the long session with Villot he chatted amiably while Sisters Vincenza and Assunta served a dinner of clear soup, veal, fresh beans and salad. Luciani sipped a little from a glass of water while Lorenzi and Magee drank red wine.

IGN 204

The only other medicines the Pope was taking were vitamin pills three times a day with his meals and a course of injections for the

adrenal cortex, drugs to stimulate the gland that secretes adrenalin. Again these were taken to assist the low blood pressure. Courses of these injections were given twice yearly, in the spring and in the autumn. The proprietary drugs varied. One of them frequently used was Cortiplex. These injections were administered by Sister Vincenza. Luciani was taking a course of them during his Papacy, hence the need for Vincenza in the Papal Apartments. The drugs used for the injections, like the Effortil by the bedside, could have been tampered with easily.

IGN 167

Though his bedside alarm clock was habitually set for 4.45 a.m. in case he overslept, the Pope would be awakened by a knock on his bedroom door at 4.30 a.m. The knock informed him that Sister Vincenza had left a flask of coffee outside. Even this simple act had been subjected to Curial interference. In Venice the nun had been accustomed to knock on the door, call out a 'Good morning' and bring the coffee directly into Luciani's bedroom. The busy monsignors in the Vatican considered this innocent gesture to be a breach of some imaginary protocol. They remonstrated with a baffled Luciani, who agreed that the coffee could be left in his adjoining study. The habit of a coffee consumed immediately upon waking derived from a sinus

operation performed many years previously. The operation had left Luciani with an unpleasant taste in his mouth when he awoke. When travelling, if coffee was not available, he would suck a sweet.

IGN 204

At 4.30 a.m. on the morning of Friday September 29th, Sister Vincenza carried a flask of coffee to the study as usual. A few moments later she knocked on the Pope's bedroom door and called out, 'Good morning, Holy Father'. For once there was no reply. Vincenza waited for a moment then padded away quietly. At 4.45 a.m. she returned. The tray of coffee in the study was untouched. She had worked for Luciani since 1959 in Vittorio Veneto. Not once in nineteen years had he overslept. Anxiously she moved to the bedroom door and listened. There was no sound. She knocked on the door,

IGN 217

Sister Vincenza had worked with Luciani for nearly twenty years. Far from casting her eyes upon the ground at his approach she was a source of great comfort to Luciani. Indeed the man was cut off; but would a bevy of intimates have been able to prevent a solitary, mysterious death?

LC67/68.

.....JOHNPAUL *You realise that the diocese of Venice is vacant.*

BAGGIO(Uncertain) Yes.

JOHNPAUL; The people of Venice are very dear to me.
They need a cardinal to nourish and care for them.
I want you to be that Cardinal.

BAGGIO (Shocked) Me.

JOHNPAUL: Yes.

BAGGIO: But there is so much that I still have to
do in Rome...my work...the bishops throughout the
world..

JOHNPAUL: I want you to take care of Venice.

BAGGIO: (getting upset) You can't mean it.

JOHNPAUL: I do.

BAGGIO: (Calmer) Thank you but I must decline.

JOHNPAUL You decline ?

BAGGIO: I am needed here in Rome.

JOHNPAUL: I think it is my job to decide where my
cardinals are needed. I want you to go to Venice.

BAGGIO: No.

JOHNPAUL: Cardinal Baggio, the matter is not open
to debate.

BAGGIO: I am not leaving Rome.

JOHNPAUL(Pause) And your oath of obedience ?

BAGGIO: I am a cardinal a prince of the church.

JOHNPAUL: I am the Pope.

BAGGIO: Your Holiness has much to learn.

JOHNPAUL: I am learning. I am not asking you to go to Venice, it is an order.

BAGGIO(Losing his temper) Not for me.

JOHNPAUL (Calm) You would defy the Pope ?

BAGGIO: It takes more than new robes to make a Pope. It takes more than patting children on the head and telling funny stories. Thirty days ago you were a nobody in a backwater diocese preaching to empty churches and now you think you can rule the Roman Catholic church. I am staying in Rome.

JOHNPAUL: Maybe I am not much of a Pope, but you are going to Venice.

BAGGIO(Yelling) I'd sooner go to hell(LORENZI enters the room)

JOHNPAUL: (softly) That can be arranged.

IGN 194/19

Baggio was delighted; finally the situation had been resolved. He was less than pleased with the next decision at which Luciani had arrived. Venice was without a Patriarch. Baggio was offered the job.

Many men would have felt honoured at such an offer. Baggio was

not; he was angry. He saw his future in the short term as dominating the Puebla conference in Mexico. He believed that the Church's future lay in the Third World. In the long term he saw his place in Rome, at the heart of the action. In Venice he would be out of sight and, more important, out of mind when it came to formulating future plans. The manner of his refusal to accept Venice astonished Luciani.

Obedience to the Pope and to the Papacy had been instilled into Luciani from his earliest days in the seminary at Feltre and the obedience that Luciani had acquired had been of an unquestioning nature.

Through the years as his career had progressed he had begun to question, most notably over the issues of Vatican Incorporated and Humanae Vitae, but it would have been unthinkable for Luciani publicly to lead a call to arms even on issues as important as these.

This was the man who at Paul's request had written article after article that supported the Papal line, whom when writing such an article on divorce, gave it to his secretary Father Mario Senegaglia with the wry comment, 'This will bring me many headaches I am sure, when it is published, but the Pope has requested it.'

To refuse a direct request from the Pope in the arrogant way Baggio was now doing was beyond belief.

The two men were functioning with two quite different sets of values. Luciani was considering what was best for the Roman Catholic Church.

Baggio was considering what was best for Baggio.

There were several reasons why the Pope had concluded that Baggio should move from Rome to Venice. Not least of these was one particular name on the list of Masons which Luciani had received - Baggio, Masonic name Seba, Lodge number 85/2640. Enrolled on August 14th, 1957.

Luciani had made further enquiries after his conversation with Cardinal Felici. A remark of Felici's had nagged away at him. 'Some on the list are Masons. Others are not.' Luciani's problem was to resolve the genuine from the false. The enquiries had helped by producing some clarifications.

The meeting between Baggio and Luciani has been described to me as 'a very violent argument with the violence and anger entirely deriving from His Eminence. The Holy Father remained calm.'

Calm or otherwise, Luciani had an unresolved problem at lunch time. Venice was still without a leader and Baggio was insisting his place was in Rome. A thoughtful Luciani began his soup.

LC.69

.....JOHNPAUL: Thank you for waiting. Would you like some coffee ? (He hesitates) Sister Vincenza's new improved coffee.

VILLOT: Thank you, yes (JOHNPAUL pours each of them a cup) Cardinal Bagggio looked upset.

JOHNPAUL: Yes. Tell me, is it usual for a cardinal to refuse to obey a Pope ?

VILLOT: I don't understand.

JOHNPAUL I just told Cardinal Bagggio that I wanted him to replace me in Venice. He said no.

VILLOT He said no?!

JOHNPAUL: Yes.

VILLOT: You agreed to reconsider ?

JOHNPAUL I want you to arrange for Cardinal Bagggio's transfer.

VILLOT: If your Holiness insists.

JOHNPAUL: I do. Please remind him that I did not want to come to Rome. Sometimes we have to sacrifice for the good of the Church.

VILLOT: I do not believe that Cardinal Bagggio considers becoming Pope a sacrifice, but I will remind him.

IGN 198

Luciani discussed Bagggio's refusal to accept the See of Venice and his continued determination that Bagggio should go where he was told to go. 'Venice is not a tranquil bed of roses. It needs a man of Bagggio's

strength. I wish you to talk with him. Tell him that we all have to make some sacrifice at this time. Perhaps you should remind him that I had no desire for this job.' The argument would have limited value for Baggio, who himself had earnestly desired to be Paul's successor but Villot diplomatically neglected to make this point.

LC69/70/71

JOHNPAUL: *I've read your report on the Vatican Bank. I've also read Cardinal Benelli's report.*

VILLOT: *Benelli submitted a report ?*

JOHNPAUL: *I have decided to remove Bishop Marcinkus.*

VILLOT: *When ?*

JOHNPAUL: *Tomorrow.*

VILLOT: *Do you have another job for him in the Vatican ?*

JOHNPAUL: *No, he is to be transferred to Chicago.*

VILLOT *As your Holiness wishes. (Pause)*

JOHNPAUL: *How long have you been Secretary of State ?*

VILLOT: *Ten years.*

JOHNPAUL: *It is a demanding job.*

VILLOT: *I have done my best.*

JOHNPAUL: I know. You have earned the right to rest.

VILLOT(Pause) Does Your Holiness want me to retire ?

JOHNPAUL: Yes.

VILLOT: (There is a long pause) Cardinal Casaroli is a good man.

JOHNPAUL A brilliant diplomat...but he is to willing to compromise with the communists.

VILLOT: Who is to be my replacement. ?

JOHNPAUL: Cardinal Benelli. (There is a long pause)

VILLOT: You are the Pope.

JOHNPAUL: What do you think ?

VILLOT Your way is not :Pope Paul's way.

JOHN PAUL: (Wearily) I am not Pope Paul.

VILLOT: I fear for the Church.

JOHNPAUL Why ?

VILLOT: Because you are wrong.

JOHNPAUL: How am I wrong.

VILLOT Everything about you is wrong.

JOHNPAUL: I am what I am(Pause)

VILLOT: Yes.

IGN196/197/198

Luciani and Villot sat sipping their camomile tea. In an attempt to get closer to his Secretary of State, the Pope had from time to time during their numerous meetings spoken to Villot in his native French. It was a gesture the Cardinal from St Amande-Tallende appreciated. He had been deeply impressed at how quickly Luciani had settled into the Papacy. The word had gone out from the Secretariat of State's office to a number of Luciani's friends and former colleagues. Monsignor Da Rif, still working at Vittorio Veneto, was one of many to be given a progress report.

From Cardinal Villot down they all admired Papa Luciani's way of working. His ability to get to the root of problems, to make decisions quickly and firmly. They were very struck with his ability to carry out his tasks. It was clear that he was a man who took decisions and stuck to them. He did not give way to pressure. In my own personal experience this ability to stick to his own line was a very remarkable feature of Albino Luciani.

During the late afternoon of September 28th Jean Villot was given

an extended demonstration of this ability that had so impressed him during the previous month. The first problem to be discussed was the Istituto per le Opere di Religione, the Vatican Bank. Luciani was by now in possession of a great deal of highly detailed information. Villot himself had already submitted a preliminary report. Luciani had also obtained further information from Villot's deputy Archbishop Giuseppe Caprio, and from Benelli and Felici.

For Bishop Paul Marcinkus, who had initiated the plan and played such an active helping role for Calvi in the takeover of the Banca Cattolica, that chicken and a great many others were now going to come home to roost.

IGN197

As their conversation progressed, Luciani made it clear that he had no intention of leaving Marcinkus in Vatican City, let alone the Vatican Bank. Having personally assessed the man during a 45-minute interview earlier in the month Luciani had concluded that Marcinkus might be more gainfully employed as an auxiliary bishop in Chicago. He had not indicated his thinking to Marcinkus but the cool politeness he had shown to the man from Cicero had not passed unnoticed.

Returning to his bank offices after the interview, Marcinkus later

confided to a friend, 'I may not be around here much longer.'

To Calvi via the telephone and to his colleagues in the bank he observed: 'You would do well to remember that this Pope has different ideas from the last one. There are going to be changes around here. Big changes.'

Marcinkus was right. Luciani advised Villot that Marcinkus was to be removed immediately. Not in a week's or a month's time. The following day. He was to take leave of absence. A suitable post in Chicago would be found for him once the problem of Cardinal Cody had been resolved.

Villot was told that Marcinkus was to be replaced by Monsignor Giovanni Angelo Abbo, secretary of the Prefecture of Economic Affairs of the Holy See. As a key figure in the financial tribunal of the Vatican, Monsignor Abbo would demonstrably be bringing to his new job a great deal of financial expertise.

The inspiration of Pope John's first 100 days had certainly galvanized Albino Luciani. The claws of the lion which his intimates had waited to see revealed, were on full display to Villot on the evening of September 28th. Luciani, a man so unassuming and gentle,

had, before his Papacy, seemed much smaller than his 5 ft 9 ins. To many observers over the years he had seemed to melt into the wallpaper. His manner was so quiet and calm that after a large gathering many were unaware that he had been present. Villot was left in no doubt of his presence on this evening. Luciani told him:

IGN 198

There are other changes within the Istituto per le Opere di Religione that I wish to be implemented immediately. Mennini, De Strobil and Monsignor De Bonis are to be removed. At once. De Bonis is to be replaced by Monsignor Antonetti. The other two vacancies I will discuss with Monsignor Abbo. I wish all of our links with the Banco Ambrosiano Group to be cut and the cut must happen in the very near future. It will be impossible, in my view, to effect this step with the present people holding the reins.

Father Magee remarked to me, in terms of a general observation, 'He knew what he wanted. He was very clear indeed about what he wanted. The manner in which he went about his aims was very delicate.'

The 'delicacy' lay in his explanation to Villot. Both men knew that

Marcinkus, Mennini, De Strobels and De Bonis were all men with inextricable links not only with Calvi but also with Sindona. What was not said could not be misquoted at a later date.

Cardinal Villot noted these changes without much comment. He had been aware of a great deal over the years. Many within the Vatican considered him ineffectual but for Villot it had often been a case of deliberately looking the other way. In the Vatican village it was called survival technique.

Villot considered the proposed changes that included his own 'resignation'. He was old and tired. Further, he was also seriously ill. An illness not helped by the two packs of cigarettes he smoked daily. Villot had made it plain in late August that he sought early retirement. Now it had come somewhat sooner than he had bargained for. There would be a period of handover of course but to all intents and purposes his power was now ceasing. The fact that Luciani proposed to replace him with Benelli must have been particularly vexing to Villot. Benelli had been his number two in the past and it had not been the happiest of relationships.

Villot studied the notes he had made of the proposed changes. Albino Luciani, placing his own handwritten notes to one side, poured

out more tea for both of them. Villot said, 'I thought you were considering Casaroli as my replacement?'

'I did, for a considerable time. I think much of his work is brilliant but I share Giovanni Benelli's reservations about some of the policy initiatives that have been made in the recent past towards Eastern Europe.'

Luciani waited for some sign or word of encouragement. The silence grew longer. Never during their entire relationship had Villot dropped his formality; always there was the mask, always there was the coldness. Luciani had tried directly and also via Felici and Benelli to inject some warmth into his dealings with Villot, but the cold professional aloofness that was his hallmark remained. Eventually it was Luciani who broke the silence, 'Well, Eminence?'

'You are the Pope. You are free to decide.'

'Yes, yes, but what do you think?'

Villot shrugged. 'These decisions will please some and distress others. There are cardinals within the Roman Curia who worked hard to get you elected who will feel betrayed. They will consider these changes, these appointments contrary to the late Holy Father's wishes.'

Luciani smiled. 'Was the late Holy Father planning to make appointments in perpetuity? As for the cardinals who claim to have worked hard to make me Pope - understand this - I have said it many times, but clearly it needs saying yet again. I did not seek to become Pope. I did not want to be Pope. You cannot name one single cardinal

IGN200

to whom I proposed anything. Not one whom I persuaded in any form to vote for me. It was not my wish. It was not my doing. There are men here within Vatican City who have forgotten their purpose. They have reduced this to just another market place. That is why I am making these changes.'

'It will be said that you betrayed Paul.'

'It will also be said that I have betrayed John. Betrayed Pius. Each will find his own guiding light according to his needs. My concern is that I do not betray Our Lord Jesus Christ.'

LC 72.

.....BENELLI. Villot called me the next morning, his voice was flat without emotion. He read me the statement he was giving to Vatican Radio. "At five thirty in the morning of September the twenty-ninth, nineteen seventy eight, Monsignor Magee found the Pope dead in his bed. He was sitting up with the light on reading "The Imitation of Christ" Death was due to a heart attack." (No longer quoting from the broadcast) He died on the thirty-third day of his reign. He was the first Pope in a century to die alone.

IGN202.

Albino Luciani was the first Pope to die alone for over one hundred years, but then it has been a great deal longer since a Pope was murdered.

IGN208/209

This morning, September 29th, 1978, about 5.30, the private

Secretary of the Pope, contrary to custom not having found the Holy Father in the chapel of his private apartment, looked for him in his room and found him dead in bed with the light on, like one who was intent on reading. The physician, Dr Renato Buzzonetti, who hastened at once, verified the death, which took place presumably towards eleven o'clock yesterday evening, as 'Sudden death that could be related to acute myocardial infarction.'

Later bulletins stated that the secretary in question was Father Magee who, according to the Vatican, usually said Mass with the Pope at 5.30.a.m. and that the Pope had been reading The Imitation of Christ, the fifteenth-century work usually attributed to Thomas à Kempis.

NOTE. Of course the Vatican statement ie the one from the book which is verbatim would with a little research ie Vatican records or newspaper accounts probably have been available to the "playwright" but the internal evidence ie the marrying of the statement used in the play to my comments immediately after the original statement plus the lifting of my phrase from page 202 strongly suggest that Crane has not even bothered to carry out his own elementary original research on this passage but has just cobbled together details obtained from my book.

LC73/74

The lights come up on the Pope's study. Everything has been removed except the books.

BENELLI turns and walks into the study. He walks to the door of the Pope's bedroom. The Pope's body may be visible through the door. VINCENZA enters.

VICENZA: May I see him ?

BENELLI nods and turns away from the door. She goes to the door of JOHNPAUL'S bedroom.

He looked so peaceful when I found him.

BENELLI(Curious) You found him ?

VICENZA (Emotional) He was sitting up in bed,his glasses were still on, he head was slightly to one side,his papers were in his lap.

BENELLI;His papers ?

VINCENZA:Lists of names. He told me he was sending people home.

BENELLI: Villot said he was reading 'Imitation of the Life of Christ'.

VINCENZA No,he had his papers.

BENELLI:(Looking around) Where are his things ?

VINCENZA: Cardinal Villot had everything taken away.....everything except his books.....

BENELLI...Sister,did the Pope complain about any physical problem yesterday...chest pains,shortness of breath ?

VINCENZA: No.

LC75.

VILLOT; It is now our responsibility to schedule the funeral and prepare for the conclave. We must...

SUENENS What about the rumours ?

VILLOT: What rumours?

SUENENS: That his body was not discovered at five thirty by Magee, but at four thirty by a nun.

GANTIN: And that he died reading secret papers.

VILLOT I can't be responsible for rumours.....

LORSCHIEDER: Responsible newspapers are carrying the story.

VILLOT These are lies by people trying to discredit the Vatican.

BAGGIO: Probably the communists.

BENELLI: Is Sister Vicenza a communist ?

VILLOT Vincenza is in Venice.

BENELLI I spoke to her (TO VILLOT) Before you sent her away. (To the others) She discovered The Pope's body a little after four thirty. He was holding papers he had been working on all afternoon.

OTTAVIANI: Impossible.. Villot what is going on ?

VILLOT(Looking around) How could I say that a nun discovered the Pope's body ?

OTTAVIANI(Shocked) So you lied to the press ?

VILLOT Yes.

GANTIN: And the story about what he was reading, was that a lie ?

VILLOT (Looking at BENELLI then speaking reluctantly) Yes.

OTTAVIANI: How could you do this ?

BAGGIO: If we tell the truth now it will only be worse.

BENELLI: You can't hide the truth.

BAGGIO: Why not ?

BENELLI: I won't hide the truth.

LORSCHIEDER: The newspapers are already saying that he might have been murdered.

OTTAVIANI: (Looking at VILLOT) You are a fool.

BAGGIO: We can issue a correction and say it was a mistake.

OTTAVIANI gives BAGGIO a look of disdain.

OTTAVIANI (To BAGGIO) You are the mistake

BENNELLI (Slight pause) We need an autopsy.

VILLOT: The body has been embalmed.

BENNELLI I sent the embalmers away.

VILLOT I sent them back. The body was embalmed last night.

BENELLI: Last night!

BAGGIO (Loudly) There will not be an autopsy.

GANTIN: Why not?

BAGGIO: There is no precedent.

SUENENS: Cardinal Felici, you are the expert.

FELICI: I don't know.

OTTAVIANI: If we have lied about the time, about the papers, people will think we have lied about the cause of death.

FELICI There will always be rumours.

OTTAVINI (Heated) Rumours about murder ?

VILLOT: (Trying to switch topics) We need to set a date for his funeral.

BENELLI: (Not playing that game) What happened to his things ? His personal effects, his papers?

VILLOT: I had them removed. His watch, glasses, pictures ,that sort of thing were sent to his family.

BENELLI: And his papers ?

VILLOT: They were confidential. They were destroyed.

GANTIN: Why ?

VILLOT: I am Secretary of State. It was my decision.

BENELLI: What about his pills

VILLOT: Pills ?

BENELLI: His pills, the coffee he drank that night, the tray of sweets he kept on his desk ?

VILLOT: I gave instructions to remove everything.

BENELLI: They were thrown out ?

VILLOT: Yes.

BENELLI: Then we will do an autopsy.

FELICI: An autopsy is ugly.

BENELLI So is the possibility of murder.

BAGGIO: (Abruptly) There will not be an autopsy.

Everyone looks at BAGGIO because of the force of his comment.

BAGGIO (Trying to come up with a reason) How will we look, the Church look ? It will only confirm people's suspicions and they will never believe the results anyway.

OTTAVIANI: I agree with Benelli.

FELICI: (Sarcastically) That the Pope was murdered ?

OTTAVIANI: That we should have an autopsy to prove he wasn't.

FELICI (Trying to avoid an autopsy) What we need is an informal investigation to see if there is any need for an autopsy. A very quiet inquiry.

OTTAVIANI: Let's carve the poor bastard up, prove he wasn't murdered and be done with it.

VILLOT I don't know.....

FELICI: (Interrupting) As head of the Supreme Court, I will conduct the investigation

OTTAVIANI: No. As Senior Cardinal I will head the investigation.

FELICI: I will assist.

BENELLI: And so will I. We will need Lorenzi.

VILLOT: I sent him north. I don't think.....

BENELLI: We will need to speak to him and Monsignor Magee

IGN204

At 4.30 a.m. on the morning of Friday September 29th, Sister

Vincenza carried a flask of coffee to the study as usual. A few

moments later she knocked on the Pope's bedroom door and called

out, 'Good morning, Holy Father'. For once there was no reply.

Vincenza waited for a moment then padded away quietly. At 4.45 a.m.

she returned. The tray of coffee in the study was untouched. She had

worked for Luciani since 1959 in Vittorio Veneto. Not once in

nineteen years had he overslept. Anxiously she moved to the bedroom

door and listened. There was no sound. She knocked on the door,

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We Are Left Frightened

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timidly at first, then with greater force. Still there was silence. There was a light shining from under the door of the bedroom. She knocked again on the bedroom door. Still there was no answer. Opening the door she saw Albino Luciani sitting up in bed. He was wearing his glasses and gripped in his hands were some sheets of paper. His head was turned to the right and the lips were parted showing his teeth. It was not the smiling face that had so impressed the millions but an expression of agony. She felt his pulse. Recently she recounted that moment to me:

'It was a miracle that I survived. I have a bad heart. I pushed the bell to summon the secretaries, then I went out to find the other Sisters and to awaken Don Diego.'

The Sisters resided on the far side of the Papal Apartments. Father Magee slept upstairs in the attic area. Father Lorenzi was sleeping on a temporary basis near to the Pope's bedroom while his own room in

the attic area previously occupied by Paul's secretary, Monsignor Macchi, was being re-decorated. He was shaken out of his sleep by Sister Vincenza.

The Sisters resided on the far side of the Papal Apartments. Father Magee slept upstairs in the attic area. Father Lorenzi was sleeping on a temporary basis near to the Pope's bedroom while his own room in the attic area previously occupied by Paul's secretary, Monsignor Macchi, was being re-decorated. He was shaken out of his sleep by Sister Vincenza.

A number of early rising Romans had already noted with quiet satisfaction the light shining from the Pope's bedroom. It was good to know you were not the only one up at such an early hour. The light had remained unnoticed throughout the night by Vatican security guards.

A half-dazed Diego Lorenzi gazed at the lifeless body of Albino Luciani. Next to respond was Father Magee. For the second time within two months he looked upon a dead Pope, but in markedly different circumstances. When Paul VI had died on August 6th, many were gathered around the death bed in Castel Gandolfo, the Papal summer residence just outside Rome. Medical bulletins gave a highly detailed account of the last twenty-four hours of Paul's life and an

equally detailed account of the sequence of physical ailments that led to his death at 9.40 p.m.

Now after a mere 33 days as Pope, Albino Luciani had died alone.

Cause of death? Time of death?

After one of the shortest Conclaves in history, one of the shortest reigns. No Pope had died so quickly after his election for nearly 400 years. To find a briefer Papacy it is necessary to go back to 1605, to the days of the Medici Leo XI who served for 17 days. How had Albino Luciani died?

Father Magee's first action was to telephone Secretary of State Villot, residing two floors below. Less than twelve hours earlier Albino Luciani had told Villot of his impending replacement by

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Benelli. Now, far from being a former Secretary of State, the Pope's death not only ensured he would remain in office until a successor was elected, he also assumed the role of Camerlengo, virtually acting head of the Church. By 5.00 a.m. Villot was in the Pope's bedroom and had confirmed for himself that Albino Luciani was dead.

If Luciani died naturally, the subsequent actions and instructions given by Villot are completely inexplicable. His behaviour only becomes understandable when related to one specific conclusion.

Either Cardinal Jean Villot was part of a conspiracy to murder the Pope, or he saw clear evidence in the Papal bedroom indicating the Pope had been murdered, and promptly determined that to protect the Church the evidence must be destroyed.

Beside the Pope's bed on a small table was the medicine that Luciani had been taking for low blood pressure. Villot pocketed the medicine and removed the notes on the Papal transfers and appointments from the dead Pope's hands. They followed the medicine into Villot's pocket. From his study desk his last Will was removed. Also to vanish from the bedroom were the Pope's glasses and slippers. None of these items has ever been seen again. Villot then created for the shocked members of the Pope's household a totally fictitious account of the circumstances leading to the finding of Luciani's body. He imposed a vow of silence concerning Sister Vincenza's discovery and instructed the household that news of the death was to be suppressed until he indicated otherwise. Then sitting in the Pope's study he began to make a series of telephone calls.

Based on the eye-witness accounts of people I have interviewed, the medicine, the glasses, the slippers and the Pope's last Will were all in the bedroom and the Papal study before Villot entered the rooms. After his initial visit and examination all the items had vanished.

News of the death was given to Cardinal Confalonieri, the 86-yearold Dean of the Sacred College. Then to Cardinal Casaroli, head of Vatican diplomacy. Villot instructed the nuns on the switchboard to locate his deputy and the number three in the Church hierarchy, Archbishop Giuseppe Caprio, who was on holiday in Montecatini. Only then did he telephone Doctor Renato Buzzonetti, deputy head of the Vatican's health service. Next he rang the guard room of the Swiss Guard. Speaking to Sergeant Hans Roggan, Villot told him to come immediately to the Papal Apartments. Father Diego Lorenzi, the only man to have accompanied Luciani from Venice, wandered shocked and bewildered through the Apartments. He had lost a man who over the past two years had been

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a second father. In tears he attempted to understand, to find some

meaning. When Villot eventually decided that the world could know, millions would share Lorenzi's grief and bewilderment.

Despite Villot's stricture that the news must not leak out, Diego Lorenzi telephoned Luciani's doctor, Antonio Da Ros. He had been Luciani's physician for over twenty years. Lorenzi vividly remembers the doctor's reaction. 'He was shocked. Stunned. Unable to believe it. He asked me the cause but I didn't know. Doctor Da Ros was equally mystified. He said he would drive to Venice immediately and catch a plane to Rome.'

Lorenzi's next phone call was to Albino's niece Pia, who was probably closer to her uncle than any other member of the family. Diego Lorenzi would appear to have been the only member of the Church to appreciate that even Popes have relatives. Lorenzi naturally felt that the family warranted a personal phone call rather than hearing the news on the radio.

'We found him this morning. You need a great faith now.' Many were going to be in need of a great faith. Many were going to have to suspend belief to swallow what Villot and his colleagues would say within the next few days.

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Dr Buzzonetti made a brief examination of the body. He advised Villot that the cause of death was acute myocardial infarction, a heart attack. The doctor put the time of death at about 11.00 p.m. on the previous evening.

To determine the time of death as 11.00 p.m. and the cause as

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myocardial infarction after such a brief external examination is a medical impossibility.

Villot had already decided before Buzzonetti's examination, which took place at approximately 6 a.m., that the body of Albino Luciani should be immediately embalmed. Even before his phone call to Cardinal Confalonieri at 5.15 a.m. Villot had put into motion the initial course of action to ensure a rapid embalment. The Signoracci brothers Ernesto and Renato had embalmed the last two Popes. Now, a dawn telephone call and a Vatican car that arrived at 5.00 a.m.